

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 057761

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:GADIES:BF

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P 122051Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057761

RDO BARON

FOL REPEAT STATE 57761 ACTION COTONOU 10 MAR.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057761

FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DM, US

SUBJECT: FUTURE OF US-BENIN RELATIONS

REFS: (A) COTONOU 429; (B) STATE 55153 (C) COTONOU 401

1. PER REF (B), DEPT HAS DECIDED TO WAIT UNTIL MARCH 15  
FOR GPRB ASSURANCES THAT TREATMENT ACCORDED AMBASSADOR  
ENGLE WILL NOT BE REPEATED. IN THE EVENT THAT GRRB  
RESPONSE IS NOT FORTHCOMING BY THAT DATE OR IS INADEQUATE,  
DEPT IS CONSIDERING FOLLOWING COURSES OF ACTION;

A) TERMINATION OF ACTION ON AID FUNDING OF COTONOU BRIDGE  
(BUT CONTINUATION OF AID FUNDING FOR SUPERVISORY  
ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR AFOB-FINANCED DAM AND REPAIRS  
TO OLD BRIDGE);

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PAGE 02 STATE 057761

B) REFUSAL TO CONSIDER NEW BILATERAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS FROM GPRB;

C) WITHDRAWAL OF NONESSENTIAL USG PERSONNEL INCLUDING PEACE CORPS;

D) CONTINUATION OF USG REPRESENTATION AT CHARGE LEVEL.

CHOICE OF WHICH COURSES OF ACTION TO FOLLOW (ALL OR SOME OF ABOVE) WILL BE MADE ASAP AFTER MARCH 15.

2. IN PREPARING OPTIONS PAPER REGARDING FUTURE COURSES OF ACTION, FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE BEING TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION:

-) WHAT IS THE EFFECT ON THE GPRB LIKELY TO BE OF THESE ACTIONS TAKEN SINGLY OR TOGETHER?

B) WOULD ANY OF THESE ACTIONS, OR ANY COMBINATION OF THEM, BE LIKELY TO LEAD THE GPRB TO TAKE COUNTERA MEASURES AGAINST USG?

C) WHAT FORM ARE THESE COUNTERMEASURES LIKELY TO TAKE, E.G., NOTICE TO LEAVE RESIDENCE, SHORTER TIME PERIOD IN WHICH TO VACATE CHANCERY, END OF ANY POSSIBILITY FOR COMPENSATION FOR MATIONALIZED AMERICAN FIRMS, HARASSMENT OF USG PERSONNEL. ETC.?

D) IN THE EVENT OF GPRB HARASSMENT OF US PERSONNEL. HOW VULNERABLE ARE PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS LIKELY TO BE? WHAT PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES, IF ANY, WOULD YOU SUGGEST?

E) COULD PEACE CORPS CONTINUE TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY IN BENIN IF BILATERAL RELATIONS DETERIORATE FURTHER AS A RESULT OF AN UNSATISFACTORY RESPONSE FROM GPRB TO OUR PROTEST?

F) COULD THE AID LOAN FOR THE COTONOU BRIDGE RE IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVELY IF BILATERAL RELATIONS DETERIORATE FURTHER?  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 057761

4. MODALITIES OF IMPLEMENTING THESE OPTIONS BEING DISCUSSED WITH AGENCIES AFFECTED. BOTH PEACE CORPS AND AID HAVE EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT LEGALITY OF UNILATERAL TERMINATION OF THEIR PROGRAMS. DEPT NATURALLY CONSULTING WITH THESE AGENCIES DURING PREPARATION OF OPTIONS PAPER.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS ON ABOVE OPTIONS  
AND QUESTIONS ASAP, IF POSSIBLE BY COB TUESDAY, MARCH 11.  
ALSO WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE EMBASSY SUMMARY OF CURRENT

STATUS OF OUTSTANDING BILATERAL PROBLEMS (CHANCERY,  
RESIDENCE, COMPENSATION, TREATMENT OF AMBASSADOR  
ENGLE). KISSINGER

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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